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! _____ end if
30 _____ end extract
_____ print
_____ print "Sorted Data:"
5 _____ print
40 _____ for each tools
_____ c1$ + change$ (tools(last inv), '/', '')
_____ print tools(toolno); tab (23); tools(model); &
_____ tab (35); tools(last inv); tab(44); c$
10 _____ if valid ( c1$, "digits" ) = 0 then
_____ print; tab(53); " Date format is not digits"
_____ print #2: ;tab(53); " Date format is not digits"
_____ end if
! _____ if valid ( c1$, "minlength 6" ) = 0 then
15 ! _____ print; tab(53); " Date format is short"
! _____ print #2: ;tab(53); " Date format is short"
! _____ end if

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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10. (Amended) The method of claim 9, including the additional step, after the step of reformatting, of manipulating information in the database utilizing [having] the reformatted date information [therein].

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Please add new claims as follows:

16. (New) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates stored in a database, comprising the steps of:

providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein
30 according to a format wherein M₁ M₂ is the numerical month designator, D₁ D₂
is the numerical day designator, and Y₁ Y₂ is the numerical year designator, all

of the symbolic representations of dates falling within a 10-decade period of time;

selecting a window with a $Y_A Y_B$ value for a pivot date of the window, $Y_A Y_B$ being no later than the earliest $Y_1 Y_2$ year designator in the database;

- 5 determining a century designator $C_1 C_2$ for each symbolic representation of a date in the database, $C_1 C_2$ having a first value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is less than $Y_A Y_B$ and having a second value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is equal to or greater than $Y_A Y_B$; and
- reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a date in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database,
- 10 with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values $C_1 C_2$, $Y_1 Y_2$, $M_1 M_2$, and $D_1 D_2$, in order to facilitate collectively further processing the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic representations of each of the dates.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the window includes at least a portion of the decade beginning in the year 2000.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of determining includes the step of:

determining the first value as 20 and the second value as 19.

19. (New) The method of claim 16, including an additional step, after the step of
- 20 reformatting, of:
- sorting the symbolic representations of dates.

20. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of reformatting includes the step of:

reformatting each symbolic representation of a date into the format C₁ C₂ Y₁ Y₂ M₁ M₂ D₁ D₂ separately from the symbolic representations in the database.

5 21. (New) The method of claim 20, including an additional step, after the step of reformatting, of:

sorting the symbolic representations of dates using a numerical-order sort.

22. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of providing a database includes the step of:

10 converting pre-existing date information having a different format into the format wherein M₁ M₂ is the numerical month designator, D₁ D₂ is the numerical day designator and Y₁ Y₂ is the numerical year designator.

23. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of selecting includes the step of:

15 selecting Y_A Y_B such that Y_B is 0 (zero).

24. (New) The method of claim 16, including an additional step, after the step of reformatting, of:

storing the symbolic representation of dates and their associated information back into the database.

20 25. (New) The method of claim 24, including the additional step, after the step of reformatting, of:

manipulating information in the database having the reformatted date information therein.

26. (New) A method of processing dates in a database, comprising the steps of:

providing a database with dates stored therein according to a format wherein

5 M₁ M₂ is the numerical month designator, D₁ D₂ is the numerical day designator, and Y₁ Y₂ is the numerical year designator, all of the symbolic representations of dates falling within a 10-decade period of time;

selecting a window with a Y_A Y_B value for a pivot date of the window, Y_A Y_B being no later than the earliest Y₁ Y₂ year designator in the database;

10 determining a century designator C₁ C₂ for each date in the database, C₁ C₂ having a first value if Y₁ Y₂ is less than Y_A Y_B and having a second value if Y₁ Y₂ is equal to or greater than Y_A Y_B;

reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a date in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database,

15 with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values C₁ C₂, Y₁ Y₂, M₁ M₂, and D₁ D₂, in order to facilitate collectively further processing the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic representations of each of the dates; and

sorting the dates in the form C₁ C₂ Y₁ Y₂ M₁ M₂ D₁ D₂.

20 27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of providing a database includes the step of:

converting pre-existing date information having a different format into the format wherein $M_1 M_2$ is the numerical month designator, $D_1 D_2$ is the numerical day designator and $Y_1 Y_2$ is the numerical year designator.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of selecting includes the step of:

selecting $Y_A Y_B$ such that Y_B is 0 (zero).

29. (New) The method of claim 26, including an additional step, after the step of sorting, of:

storing the sorted dates and their associated information back into the database.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, including the additional step, after the step of sorting, of:

manipulating information in the database having the reformatted dates therein.

31. (New) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates stored in a database, comprising the steps of:

providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein according to a format wherein $Y_1 Y_2$ is the numerical year designator;

selecting a window with a $Y_A Y_B$ value for the first decade of the window, $Y_A Y_B$ being no later than the earliest $Y_1 Y_2$ year designator in the database;

determining a century designator $C_1 C_2$ for each symbolic representation of a date in the database, $C_1 C_2$ having a first value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is less than $Y_A Y_B$ and having a second value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is equal to or greater than $Y_A Y_B$; and

reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a date in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database, with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values $C_1 C_2, Y_1 Y_2$, in order to facilitate collectively further processing the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic representations of each of the dates.

32. (New) A method of processing dates in a database, comprising the steps of:
- providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein according to a format wherein $Y_1 Y_2$ is the numerical year designator;
- 10 selecting a window with a $Y_A Y_B$ value for a pivot year of the window, $Y_A Y_B$ being no later than the earliest $Y_1 Y_2$ year designator in the database;
- determining a century designator $C_1 C_2$ for each symbolic representation of a date in the database, $C_1 C_2$ having a first value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is less than $Y_A Y_B$ and having a second value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is equal to or greater than $Y_A Y_B$;
- 15 reformatting the symbolic representation of each of the dates in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database, with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values $C_1 C_2, Y_1 Y_2$, in order to facilitate collectively further processing the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the dates; and
- 20 sorting the dates in the form $C_1 C_2 Y_1 Y_2$.

33. (New) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates stored in a database, comprising the steps of:

providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein
 according to a format wherein $Y_1 Y_2$ is the numerical year designator;
 selecting a window with a $Y_A Y_B$ value for the first decade of the window, Y_A
 Y_B being no later than the earliest $Y_1 Y_2$ year designator in the database;
 5 determining a century designator $C_1 C_2$ for each symbolic representation of a
 date in the database, $C_1 C_2$ having a first value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is less than $Y_A Y_B$ and
 having a second value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is equal to or greater than $Y_A Y_B$; and
 reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a
 date in the database, without changing any of the symbolic representations of a
 10 date in the database during the reformatting step, with the reformatted symbolic
 representation of each date in the database having the values $C_1 C_2, Y_1 Y_2$, in
 order to facilitate collectively further processing the reformatted symbolic
 representations of each of the dates.

34. (New) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date
 15 field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in the at
 least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity
 between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of:
 converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least
 one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the
 20 respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic
 representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date
 field of the database against a pivot year represented by one of the symbolic
 representations of the dates as stored in the at least one date field of the

database, without the addition of any new data field to the database for
purposes of such windowing and converting; and,
running a program collectively on each of the converted symbolic
representations of each of the respective dates to sort or otherwise manipulate
5 the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations, separately
from the date data symbolic representations contained in the at least one date
field of the database.

10 35. (New) A method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:
opening the database prior to the step of converting.

36. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:
collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations prior to the step
of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

15 37. (New) The method of claim 35 further comprising the step of:
collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations prior to the step
of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

20 38. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:
collectively manipulating the converted symbolic representations prior to
the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

39. (New) The method of claim 35 further comprising the step of:

collectively manipulating the converted symbolic representations prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

40. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:

5 collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations according to a different data field contained in the database from the at least one date field, prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

41. (New) The method of claim 35 further comprising the step of:

10 collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations according to a different data field contained in the database from the at least one date field, prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

42. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:

15 collectively manipulating the converted symbolic representations according to a different data field contained in the database from the at least one date field, prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

43. (New) The method of claim 35 further comprising the step of:

20 collectively manipulating the converted symbolic representations according to a different data entry field contained in the database from the at least one date field, prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

44. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the program performs an operation which manipulates the data in a data field associated with the at least one date field of the database according to the converted symbolic representation of the date.
- 5 45. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the program performs an operation which manipulates the data in a data field associated with the at least one date field of the database according to the converted symbolic representation of the date.
- 10 46. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the step of converting includes converting at least a substantial portion of each of the plurality of symbolic representations of dates in the at least one date field and repeating this step until each of the date data entries in the at least one date field is converted into the format that does not have the ambiguity.
- 15 47. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the step of converting includes converting at least a substantial portion of each of the plurality of symbolic representations of dates in the at least one date field and repeating this step until each of the date data entries in the at least one date field is converted into the format that does not have the ambiguity.
- 20 48. (New) The method of claim 46 further comprising the steps of:
collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

49. (New) The method of claim 47 further comprising the steps of:
collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations prior to the step
of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

5 50. (New) The method of claim 46 further comprising the step of:
collectively manipulating the converted symbolic representations.

51. (New) The method of claim 49 further comprising the step of:
collectively manipulating the converted symbolic representations.

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52. (New) The method of claim 46 further comprising the step of:
collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations according to a
different data field in the database than the at least one date field, prior to the step
of running the program.

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53. (New) The method of claim 47 further comprising the step of:
collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations according to a
different data field in the database than the at least one date field, prior to the step
of running the program.

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54. (New) The method of claim 52 further comprising the step of:
collectively manipulating the converted symbolic.

55. (New) The method of claim 53 further comprising the step of:

collectively manipulating the converted symbolic representations.

56. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the program performs an operation
which manipulates the data in a data field associated with the at least one date field
5 of the database according to the converted symbolic representation of the date.

57. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the program performs an operation
which manipulates the data in a data field associated with the at least one date field
of the database according to the converted symbolic representation of the date.

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58. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the program performs an operation
which manipulates the data in a data field associated with the at least one date field
of the database according to the converted symbolic representation of the date.

15 59. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein the program performs an operation
which manipulates the data in a data field associated with the at least one date field
of the database according to the converted symbolic representation of the date.

20 60. (New) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date
field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in the at
least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity
between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of:

converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least
one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the

respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year represented by one of the symbolic representations of the dates as stored in the at least one date field of the
5 database, without modifying any of the symbolic representations of dates in the at least one date field of the database for purposes of such windowing and converting;

running a program on each of the converted symbolic representations of each of the respective dates to sort or otherwise manipulate data in the database
10 according to the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations, separately from the date data symbolic representations of dates contained in the at least one date field of the database.

61. (New) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in the at
15 least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of:

converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the
respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic
20 representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year represented by one of the symbolic representations of the dates as stored in the at least one date field of the
database, without modifying any of the symbolic representations of dates in the

at least date field of the database for purposes of such windowing and converting;

running a program collectively on each of the converted symbolic representations of each of the respective dates to sort or otherwise manipulate

- 5 the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations, separately from the symbolic representations of dates contained in the at least one date field of the database.

62. (New) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in the at least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of:

- 10 converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic
- 15 representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year represented by one of the symbolic representations of the dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database for purposes of such windowing and converting;

- 20 storing the converted symbolic representations separate from the at least one date field of the database; and
- running a program on the stored converted symbolic representations to sort or otherwise manipulate data in the database according to the dates represented by

the converted symbolic representations, separately from the symbolic representations of dates contained in the at least one date field of the database.

63. (New) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in the at least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of:

converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year represented by one of the symbolic representations of the dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database for purposes of such windowing and converting;

storing the converted symbolic representations separate from the at least one date field of the database; and

running a program collectively on the stored converted symbolic representations to sort or otherwise manipulate the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations, separately from the symbolic representations of dates contained in the at least one date field of the database.

64. (New) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in the at

least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of:

- 5 converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the
- respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date
- field of the database against a pivot year represented by one of the symbolic representations of the dates as stored in the at least one date field of the
- database, without modifying any of the symbolic representations of dates in the
- 10 at least one date field of the database for purposes of such windowing and
- converting;
- storing the converted symbolic representations separate from the at least one
- date field in the database; and
- running a program on the stored converted symbolic representations to sort or
- 15 otherwise manipulate data in the database according to the dates represented by
- the converted symbolic representations, separately from the symbolic
- representations of dates contained in the at least one date field of the database.

65. (New) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date
- field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in the at
- 20 least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity
- between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of:

converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the

respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year represented by one of the symbolic representations of the dates as stored in the at least one date field of the
5 database, without modifying any of the symbolic representations of dates in the at least one date field of the database for purposes of such windowing and converting;

storing the converted symbolic representations separate from the at least one
date field in the database; and
10 running a program collectively on the stored converted symbolic representations to sort or otherwise manipulate the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations, separately from the symbolic representations of dates contained in the at least one date field of the database.

15 66. (New) A method of processing dates in a database, comprising the steps of:
providing a database with dates stored in at least one date field therein
according to a format wherein $M_1 M_2$ is the numerical month designator, $D_1 D_2$
is the numerical day designator, and $Y_1 Y_2$ is the numerical year designator;
selecting a window with a $Y_A Y_B$ value for a pivot date of the window, $Y_A Y_B$
20 being no later than the earliest $Y_1 Y_2$ year designator in the database;
determining a century designator $C_1 C_2$ for each date in the database, $C_1 C_2$
having a first value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is less than $Y_A Y_B$ and having a second value if Y_1
 Y_2 is equal to or greater than $Y_A Y_B$;

- reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a date in a portion of the at least one date field in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database, with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values C_1 C_2 , Y_1 Y_2 , M_1 M_2 , and D_1 D_2 ; and
- 5 repeating the step of reformatting until each symbolic representation of a date in the at least one date field has been reformatted in order to facilitate collectively further processing the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic representations of each of the dates.
- 10 67. (New) A method of processing dates in a database, comprising the steps of:
- providing a database with dates stored in at least one date field therein according to a format wherein Y_1 Y_2 is the numerical year designator;
- selecting a window with a Y_A Y_B value for a pivot date of the window, Y_A Y_B being no later than the earliest Y_1 Y_2 year designator in the database;
- 15 determining a century designator C_1 C_2 for each date in the database, C_1 C_2 having a first value if Y_1 Y_2 is less than Y_A Y_B and having a second value if Y_1 Y_2 is equal to or greater than Y_A Y_B ;
- reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a date in a portion of the at least one date field in the database, without the
- 20 addition of any new data field to the database, with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values C_1 C_2 , Y_1 Y_2 ; and

repeating the step of reformatting until each symbolic representation of a date in the at least one date field has been reformatted in order to facilitate collectively further processing the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic representations of each of the dates.

- 5 68. (New) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates stored in a database, comprising the steps of:

providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored in at least one date field therein according to a format wherein $Y_1 Y_2$ is the numerical year designator;

- 10 selecting a window with a $Y_A Y_B$ value for the first decade of the window, $Y_A Y_B$ being no later than the earliest $Y_1 Y_2$ year designator in the at least one date field of the database;

determining a century designator $C_1 C_2$ for each symbolic representation of a date in the database, $C_1 C_2$ having a first value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is less than $Y_A Y_B$ and

- 15 having a second value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is equal to or greater than $Y_A Y_B$; and

reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a date in at least one date field in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database, with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values $C_1 C_2, Y_1 Y_2$, in order to facilitate further

- 20 processing of the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic representations of each of the dates, by running a program on the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the dates.

69. (New) A method of processing dates in a database, comprising the steps of:

- providing a database with dates stored in at least one date field therein
- according to a format wherein $Y_1 Y_2$ is the numerical year designator;
- selecting a window with a $Y_A Y_B$ value for a pivot year of the window, $Y_A Y_B$
- being no later than the earliest $Y_1 Y_2$ year designator in the database;
- 5 determining a century designator $C_1 C_2$ for each date in the at least one date
- field of the database, $C_1 C_2$ having a first value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is less than $Y_A Y_B$ and
- having a second value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is equal to or greater than $Y_A Y_B$;
- reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a
- date in the at least one date field in the database, without the addition of any
- 10 new data field to the database, with the reformatted symbolic representation of
- each date in the database having the values $C_1 C_2 Y_1 Y_2$;
- sorting the reformatted symbolic representations of the dates in the form $C_1 C_2$
- $Y_1 Y_2$; and
- running a program on the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the
- 15 dates.
70. (New) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date
- field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in at least
- one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity between
- dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of
- 20 converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least
- one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the
- respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic

representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year, with the pivot year being less than or equal to the earliest date represented by the symbolic representation of dates stored in the at least one date field, without the addition of any new data field to the database, and without modifying any of the symbolic representations of dates in the at least one date field, for purposes of such windowing and converting; and,

running a program on the converted symbolic representations of each of the dates to sort or otherwise manipulate the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations, separately from the date data symbolic representations contained in the at least one date field of the database.

71. (New) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date field of the database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in the at least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of

converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year, with the pivot year being less than or equal to the earliest date represented by a symbolic representation of dates stored in the at least one date field, and without the addition of any new data field to the database for purposes of such windowing and converting;

- storing each of the converted symbolic representations of each of the dates
separate from the database; and,
- running a program on the stored converted symbolic representations of each of
the converted symbolic representations of the dates to sort or otherwise
- 5 manipulate the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations,
separately from the date data symbolic representations contained in the at least
one date field of the database.

72. (New) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates stored in a
database, comprising the steps of
- 10 selecting a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein
according to a format wherein $M_1 M_2$ is the numerical month designator, $D_1 D_2$
is the numerical day designator, and $Y_1 Y_2$ is the numerical year designator;
selecting a 10-decade window with a $Y_A Y_B$ value for the first decade of the
window, $Y_A Y_B$ being no later than the earliest $Y_1 Y_2$ year designator in the
- 15 database;
- determining a century designator $C_1 C_2$ for each symbolic representation of a
date in the database, $C_1 C_2$ having a first value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is less than $Y_A Y_B$ and
having a second value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is equal to or greater than $Y_A Y_B$; and,
- reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a
- 20 date in the database with the values $C_1 C_2$, $Y_1 Y_2$, $M_1 M_2$, and $D_1 D_2$ prior to
collectively further processing information contained within the database
associated with the respective dates.

73. (New) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates stored in a database, comprising the steps of

- 5 providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein according to a format wherein $Y_1 Y_2$ is the numerical year designator, all of the symbolic representations of dates falling within a 10-decade period of time;
- selecting a 10-decade window with a $Y_A Y_B$ value for the first decade of the window, $Y_A Y_B$ being no later than the earliest $Y_1 Y_2$ year designator in the database;
- 10 determining a century designator $C_1 C_2$ for each symbolic representation of a date in the database, $C_1 C_2$ having a first value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is less than $Y_A Y_B$ and having a second value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is equal to or greater than $Y_A Y_B$; and,
- reformatting the symbolic representation of the date with the values $C_1 C_2, Y_1 Y_2$, to facilitate further processing of the dates.

74. (New) A method of processing dates in a database, comprising the steps of

- 15 providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein according to a format wherein $Y_1 Y_2$ is the numerical year designator, all of the symbolic representations of dates falling within a 10-decade period of time;
- selecting a 10-decade window with a $Y_A Y_B$ value for the first decade of the window, $Y_A Y_B$ being no later than the earliest $Y_1 Y_2$ year designator in the
- 20 database;

determining a century designator $C_1 C_2$ for each date in the database, $C_1 C_2$
having a first value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is less than $Y_A Y_B$ and having a second value if Y_1
 Y_2 is equal to or greater than $Y_A Y_B$;
reformatting each date in the form $C_1 C_2 Y_1 Y_2$ to facilitate further processing
5 of the dates; and,
sorting the dates in the form $C_1 C_2 Y_1 Y_2$.

75. (New) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates stored in a
database, comprising the steps of

10 providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein
according to a format wherein $M_1 M_2$ is the numerical month designator, $D_1 D_2$
is the numerical day designator, and $Y_1 Y_2$ is the numerical year designator;
selecting a window with a $Y_A Y_B$ value for a pivot date of the window, $Y_A Y_B$
being no later than the earliest $Y_1 Y_2$ year designator in the database;

15 determining a century designator $C_1 C_2$ for each symbolic representation of a
date in the database, $C_1 C_2$ having a first value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is less than $Y_A Y_B$ and
having a second value if $Y_1 Y_2$ is equal to or greater than $Y_A Y_B$; and
reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a
date in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database,
with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database

20 having the values $C_1 C_2, Y_1 Y_2, M_1 M_2$, and $D_1 D_2$, in order to facilitate further
processing of the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic
representations of each of the dates.